

Desert Rifles

Issue 6

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WATER CANNONS

Story and photos
By Spc. Joe Niesen
350th MPAD

AR RAMADI, Iraq-The Palace complex at Ar Ramadi just got a little safer thanks to the delivery of four Mark II bridge erection boats that will soon be patrolling the shore of the Euphrates River.

The boats will patrol the area in order to deter future attacks from areas around the peninsula containing the southern palace.

These boats came courtesy of the 957th Engineer Company out of Bismarck, N.D., which has sent the equipment along with the operators to man them.

While the main force of the 957th is supporting the 130th Engineer Brigade, this detachment is currently working with the 3d ACR's 122 Engineer Battalion.

Their area of responsibility will include the river on either side of the southern palace complex. Doing so will ensure that Coalition Forces in the area are covered against threats from both the water and the shore.

"It's a decent sized area, but we will be able to cover it. We basically want to provide a show of force on the river," said Staff Sgt. Chris Walker.

The 957th launched the boats just north of Remington Base's tower one and immediately showed their skill with the equipment.

The entire process, from start to finish, saw all of the



PATROL--- Boats From the 957th Engineer company patrol the waters near the palace complexes in Ar Ramadi.

boats in the water and running inside of twenty minutes.

Once in the water, each boat quickly maneuvered into an over-watch position to ensure security during the launch.

It is hoped that the boats will soon be fitted with crew-served weapons and work on a randomized patrol schedule.

The 975th is also hoping to augment their crew with the personnel to man the weapons.

For the soldiers of the company, this is their first mission since arriving in theater, and many are anxious to get started.

"This is our first mission, and I think it'll be fun," said Walker.



SECURITY--- Boats on the water deter attacks from the shore near the palace complex.



GEARING UP--- Soldiers with the 975th Engineer Company get ready to launch the boats which will serve as part of the palace complex's defense.

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- TLC during a TCP
- Singing servicemembers at Al Asad
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TCP team uses courtesy to enforce law

Story and photo

**By Sgt. 1st Class Gary L. Qualls Jr.
3d Armored Cavalry Regiment**

AR RAMADI, Iraq - TCP. It stands for traffic control point- a check point on the road at which military personnel stop vehicles to check them for illegal weapons and to enforce curfews, detain criminals and show authority. Ask the leader of Regimental Headquarters, Headquarters Troop's Quick Reaction Force team, however, and he may tell you that TCP stands for "totally courteous professionals."

Check points are being used by squadrons throughout 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment's area of responsibility in Iraq. Some might say that some of the regiment's check points are carried out in a rugged, impersonal manner, but Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Kelly, the noncommissioned officer in charge of RHHT's QRF team, believes in the power of respect.

"We'll respect them until they tell us not to (by their actions)," Kelly said.

And to see Kelly out on the TCP is to see a man who practices what he preaches.

"Hello. How are you tonight?" he says as a car pulls up to the TCP. "Do you have any weapons? Can I check your car?" And as the car pulls away, after he's checked it, he says, "Thank you. Goodbye, my friend."

Courtesy and respect is evident with every sentence he utters, every procedure he performs. He is open to reason. For example, if only one direction of traffic flow is being allowed by the TCP operation, but there's an extenuating circumstance, such as a family who needs to quickly get a sick child to the hospital, he is swift to work fairly with them.

"If they act like criminals, we'll treat them like criminals, but if they act decently then why not establish some good feeling between them and us?" he asked.

There are several parts to a TCP operation. Scouts placed well ahead of the check point to give advance warning to personnel checking the cars of suspicious vehicles on the way. There are soldiers who halt the vehicles and those who search them. Others are gunners and operators in armored vehicles for security. There are personnel searching for potential threats on a security route.

If threatened, everybody in the opera-

tion is ready to react by finding a fighting position and responding to an enemy.

Special caution must be taken when it comes to searching the vehicles.

"You never know what you're going to come up against," Kelly said.

According to him, it is best to have the driver of the vehicle open the glove compartment and any loose containers that

operation comes down to sending messages, Kelly said.

One message Kelly and his troops are trying to get out to criminals and those mounting armed resistance to Coalition troops is: We are not afraid. You are not affecting our mission, and if you try to mess with us we will deal with you accordingly.



SEARCH--- Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Kelly looks inside a vehicle during check point operation in Ar Ramadi.

may be in the vehicle and to have only one soldier inspect the contents of them to minimize the risk.

One trait that is essential in checking vehicles is courage. Kelly's traffic control point operation carried out a TCP the day after their base was attacked, showing the enemy they had little or no adverse effect on base security operations.

And they execute the mission like a well-seasoned team.

"These soldiers are doing a fantastic job," said Capt. Andy Jacobs, former RHHT commander.

When you get right to it, the whole TCP

And there is one more message Kelly and company are trying to get out, a message that cannot most effectively be delivered in a tactical operations center or in a command conference room, but rather out in the streets by a man who believes in the dignity of people all over the world: We are all human. We all have families and cares and frustrations and hopes. Maybe, at this point, it makes more sense to work together than to fight.

If the second message is well received, then the first message won't be necessary. With people possessing the interpersonal skills and conviction of Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Kelly carrying the message forward, it just might.

Soldier, interpreter, woman in Iraq

Story and photo

By Sgt. Danny C. Martin Jr.
350th MPAD

Iron-y \ i-ra-ne\ n. 1: the use of words to express the opposite of what one really means 2: incongruity between the actual result of a sequence of events and the expected results.

Simply put, irony is a funny twist on reality.

The irony here is the case of Sgt. Cristina Galvin, with the 66th Military Intelligence Battalion.

The lifestyle of Americans in comparison to that of Iraqis is different in many ways. Here in Iraq, male dominance is a basis of society. The women, usually covered from head to toe, are not seen as people in charge. In America, women play many integral roles in society.

At the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, Calif., soldiers arrive and the language they will be studying is "issued" to them. Galvin's training consisted of speaking and translating Arabic. Here in Iraq, Galvin is responsible for being one of the voices, literally, of the Army.

Galvin, who was once the interpreter for Col. David A. Teeple, commander of the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, is now working with the 2nd Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment, as an interpreter.

"The good thing is that the people in cities are a little more open minded," said Galvin. "Another good thing is they see me not as a female, but as a soldier."

This is not the first time Galvin has faced a situation like this.

In March of last year, Galvin deployed to Cuba to work with enemy prisoners of war. Although she was in Cuba and not in the Middle East, she said she still faced hardships and hard times from the prisoners who were not used to being directed what to do by a woman.

This being her second deployment in two years, Galvin has learned what she needs to do as an Arabic interpreter to get the job done and to keep herself safe.

Whether this sergeant is on patrol or translating messages for a large group of people, Galvin tries to keep her wits about her the entire time. "Personal safety is something that's always in the back of my mind. I'm always a soldier."

An interpreter can be described as a middleman, or in this case a middlewoman, between people who are carrying on a conversation. Galvin is responsible for repeating the commands and intents of people.

Most Americans cannot speak Arabic most Iraqis cannot speak English. The 66th MI BN is a group tasked with bridging this language barrier. Whether it is to ask them, "What is your name?" or, "Place your weapon on the ground!" Galvin is the one of the few seen as giving the commands.

According to Arabic custom, a woman in the military giving commands is something of a myth. The irony in this case is a woman in this male-dominated region has been given the responsibility of being the spokesperson for the Army and the American people.



QUESTIONS--- Part of Sgt. Cristina Galvin's job is speaking with detainees. Here she aids military police as they gather the vital information of a detainee.

Regimental Reflections-

By Chaplain (Maj.) Christopher A. Faria

Ephesians 1:9-12 (9) He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him **(10)** with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things upon the earth. In Him **(11)** also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, **(12)** to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

Some couples have gone the route of having a "pre-nuptial" agreement. They try to look down the road and think that

if their marriage doesn't work out then they will be able to retrieve their money and possessions with a minimum of effort and pain.

Aside from the fact that this is not commitment, it does illustrate the exact opposite of what Paul was saying.

Some think God acted like a master chess player, who forms sets of moves, in our salvation. Not so.

God is sovereign. He rules with no reference to anyone but Himself.

He had a plan to bring glory to Himself through Christ. And it was according to His purpose ("...so as nothing is to Him contingent, or uncertain") He predestined us.

The hammer of God's sovereignty rings loudly against the anvil of man's

responsibility. And the sound that rings is God's glory. It is clear that what decisions God has made and will make are most holy. Where the hammer meets the anvil is what often concerns us.

The author of Hebrews wrote, "(2) fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (3) For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you may not grow weary and lose heart."

It is easy to lose heart. But never forget that what you are going through hasn't caught God by surprise. He has never accidentally dropped the hammer on the floor.



CONCERT--- Soldiers at Al Asad Air Base relax to the sounds emanating from the stage.
(LEFT) Lt. Col. Kristen French introduces the band to the audience.

Rock the Air Field

Stories and photos
By Spc. Joe Niesen
350th MPAD

AL ASAD AIR BASE, Iraq-The troopers stationed at Al Asad Air Base in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom were treated to an unexpected but welcome change of pace when the soldiers of USA Express showed up to put on a concert.

The concert was a project of the Army's Community and Family Support Center and the band will continue touring the region well into the summer. They are making stops in every region in order to reach as many soldiers as possible.

the first set that asked for audience participation and the band members tried their best to include as many different styles of music as possible.

From the latest rock and country hits to classic tunes like "Johnny B. Good" and R&B selections, the band preformed to the cheers of the crowd.

Perhaps one of the most interesting aspects of the band itself is the fact that the members are soldiers with various occupational specialties from posts all over the world.

"Knowing it's soldiers putting this on, it's great, they really know what we are going through," commented Private first class Oscar Prado, a mechanic with the 3d ACR's Muleskinner Squadron.

The members of the band played for two hours before taking a brief intermission. While the band members recovered, Sgt. Sam Richardson, NCOIC of the band, opened the stage for members of the audience to display their talent. While the audience was a little apprehensive at first, they soon had a steady line of troops waiting for their five minutes on stage.

Once the band returned, they played for an hour before calling it quits. However,



CONCERT--- Spc. Jerry Elmore, Guitarist with USA Express, plays a solo during a rendition of "Johnny B. Good."



CONCERT--- Spc. Hope Griffin serenades a member of the audience.

"It's really great to come out and lift soldiers' morale," said Sgt. Cashina Smith, a vocalist with USA Express. Their show was designed to do just that.

There were many songs played during

they announced that a second show was to be held at the following evening.

It was great, it was a real good break," said Sgt. 1st Class Theodore Garcia, a track mechanic.

Richardson commented before the show that he was going to "Give the soldiers our best show." Judging from the looks on the faces of soldiers as they relaxed in the theater or headed back to duty following the concert, USA Express's mission was a complete success.

Sports Wrap-Up

Here's a look at the latest standings in the world of major sports.

Major League Baseball

National League

East

Atlanta
Montreal (-5 ½)
Phil. (-10 ½)
Florida (-14 ½)
New York (-15 ½)

Central

Chicago
Houston (-½)
St. Louis (-2)
Cincinnati (-4)
Milwaukee (-10 ½)
Pittsburgh (-11)

West

San Francisco
Los Angeles (-4)
Colorado (-8 ½)
Arizona (-9 ½)
San Diego (-22)

American League

East

Boston
New York (even)
Toronto (-1)
Baltimore (-7)
Tampa Bay (-14 ½)

Central

Minnesota
Kansas City (-5)
Chicago (-8)
Cleveland (-10 ½)
Detroit (-20)

West

Seattle
Oakland (-7 ½)
Anaheim (-9)
Texas (-16)

Stanley Cup Finals

Anaheim Mighty Ducks vs. New Jersey Devils

New Jersey Wins!!!



Game 1- New Jersey 3, Anaheim 0
Game 2- New Jersey 3, Anaheim 0
Game 3- Anaheim 3, New Jersey 2 (OT)
Game 4- Anaheim 1, New Jersey 0 (OT)
Game 5- New Jersey 6, Anaheim 3
Game 6- Anaheim 5, New Jersey 2
Game 7- New Jersey 3, Anaheim 0

NBA Finals

New Jersey vs. San Antonio

Series tied 2-2

Game 1- San Antonio 101, New Jersey 89
Game 2- New Jersey 87, San Antonio 85
Game 3- San Antonio 84, New Jersey 79
Game 4- New Jersey 77, San Antonio 76
Game 5- Friday, June 13, 8:30 p.m. EDT
Game 6- Sunday, June 15, 8:30 p.m. EDT
*Game 7- Wednesday, June 18- 8:30 p.m. EDT
*- if necessary

NASCAR Winston Cup Standings

1.	Matt Kenseth	2115 pts.	1 Win
2.	Dale Earnhardt Jr.	1939 pts.	3 Wins
3.	Jeff Gordon	1882 pts.	1 Win
4.	Bobby Labonte	1828 pts.	1 Win
5.	Kurt Busch	1753 pts.	2 Wins
6.	Michael Waltrip	1745 pts.	1 Win
7.	Jimmie Johnson	1738 pts.	2 Wins
8.	Rusty Wallace	1671 pts.	0 Wins
9.	Kevin Harvick	1627 pts.	0 Wins
10.	Sterling Marlin	1623 pts.	0 Wins

NCAA World Series

From Rosenblatt Stadium- Omaha, Nebraska

Game 1- South Carolina vs. Stanford
Game 2- Cal State Fullerton vs. LSU
Game 3- Southwest Missouri St. vs. Rice
Game 4- Texas vs. Miami

The Back Page...

Chicago judge dismisses lawsuit against Jordan---

A judge dismissed a lawsuit on Thursday against Michael Jordan by the basketball star's former lover, saying her claim that he promised her \$5 million to keep quiet about their affair amounted to extortion.

"The court finds the agreement to be extortionate and against public policy. The entire agreement ... is void and unenforceable as a matter of law," Judge Richard Siebel of the Cook County Circuit Court ruled.

Jordan has admitted to having an affair with lounge singer Karla Knafel, now 40, that lasted from December 1989, three months after Jordan was married, until about a year later.

Doctors look at AIDS ancestry---

The ancestry of the virus that caused the AIDS epidemic has been traced to two strains of virus found in monkeys in Africa.

The viruses probably passed into chimpanzees when the

apes ate infected monkey meat, researchers say.

Earlier studies have shown that HIV1, the virus that causes the most common form of human AIDS, originated from a simian immunodeficiency virus, or SIV, that is found in chimpanzees. But how chimps came to have SIV has been a mystery.

American and English researchers analyzed the genetic pattern of a number of SIV strains in African monkeys and concluded that at least two strains found in the red-capped mangabeys and in the greater spot-nosed monkeys in south-central Africa combined to form the type of SIV now found in African chimps

No lap dances in L.A.?---

Lap dancing could be on its way out in Los Angeles under a proposal that would put dancers at the city's strip clubs out of reach behind 30-inch-high rails.

Touching of any kind between entertainers and customers at adult clubs would also be banned under an ordinance that would require dancers to stay at least 6 feet away from patrons.

The proposal was passed on Monday by a Los Angeles city council committee after residents complained of prostitution, furtive sex acts and excessive noise from adult clubs near their homes.

But the measure, which must win the approval of the full city council, was compared by the thriving adult entertainment industry in Los Angeles to draconian morality laws imposed by the former Taliban government in Afghanistan.

"Do we want a society where we're so controlled that we cannot do anything at all? Do we want a society where people can't go out and enjoy themselves?," said Roger

Diamond, a lawyer representing about 25 adult clubs in Los Angeles.

The measure is expected to be discussed by the city council later this month.

Newsman Brinkley dies at 82---

David Brinkley, the newscaster whose distinct speaking style and wry wit made him an American household name for half a century, has died at the age of 82.

Jeffrey Schneider, vice president of ABC News, his former employer, told Reuters on Thursday that Brinkley died at his Houston home just before midnight from complications caused by a fall.

For nearly half a century, Brinkley was one of the dominant faces in American broadcasting, first as a co-anchor of NBC television's evening news program and later as host of the Sunday current affairs program on ABC, "This Week with David Brinkley."

Brinkley helped shape American TV news as one of the first journalists to be totally comfortable with the new medium.

Starting at his hometown paper, the Wilmington, North Carolina Star-News, in 1938, his career spanned 11 presidents, from Franklin D. Roosevelt to Bill Clinton. In 1943 he joined NBC as a radio news writer in Washington, rising to national prominence with his coverage of the 1956 political conventions.

Army probes internet ladies' man 'Kassanova'---

The U.S. Army said on Wednesday it was investigating a 50-year-old colonel who allegedly proposed marriage to dozens of women he contacted using Internet dating services.

Col. Kassem Saleh, a married man derisively referred to

as "Kassanova" by some of the American and Canadian women he allegedly wooed on the Web, met many of them through an Internet site that arranges dates for tall men and women.

"I was one of the recent conquests," one woman, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters. "All of the ladies involved are extremely professional, intelligent women. They are not little dummy housewives or bumpkins from the woods. That's how good he was."

She added, "You have to take people at face value. So whether you meet them on the Internet, at a bar or at church, whatever, they are either ethical or they are not."

Saleh recently led reconstruction and humanitarian efforts for the U.S. military campaign in Afghanistan and now is stationed at Fort Bragg in North Carolina.

"There is an investigation under way. The command is aware of the allegation against Colonel Saleh," said Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Fletcher, a spokesman for the Army's 18th Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg.

Question of the Week:

What is the difference between embedded and accredited media?

Submit answers to: RCSM Caldwell in writing with name, rank and section.



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